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The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 21, 1988

Published Since 1877

Youth Evangelism Conference



Group devotional time was an integral part of the youth evangelism conference.



Dennis Swanberg of First Church, Saginaw, Tex., was the featured speaker for the conference.



Sue McAllister of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, and Dennis Ray Smith, of First Church, Pascagoula, sing before the estimated 2,200 youths who gathered at the Mississippi College coliseum in December. About 200 registered spiritual decisions during the meeting.



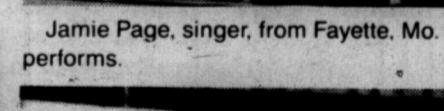
"The Third Day" from First Church, Quitman, sings.



Dennis Lee and Friend of Dallas entertain.



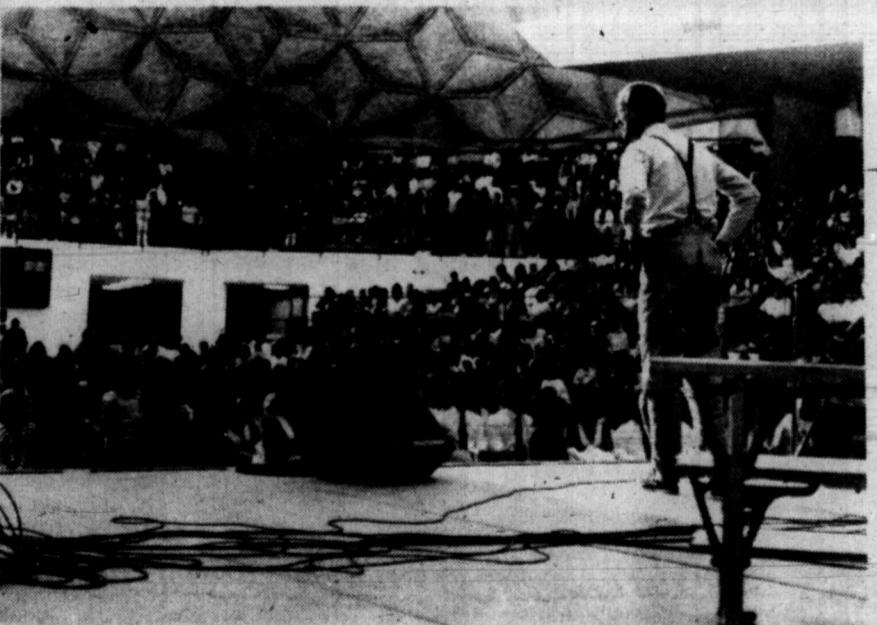
"Promise" from First Church, Picayune, sings.



Jamie Page, singer, from Fayette, Mo. performs.



Mark McMasters of Buies Creek, N.C., juggles.



Rich Malone, minister of youth at Parkway Church, Jackson, serves as master of ceremonies.

Photos by Mark Wilson

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, January 21, 1988

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Lolley tenure "moot"

Southeastern trustees may elect president in March

By Dan Martin

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — There is the "very strong possibility" trustees at Southeastern Seminary here, will elect a new president when they meet March 14-15, making moot a new controversy over the tenure of President W. Randall Lolley.

"I think there is the very strong possibility we will elect a president when we meet in March," said trustee chairman Robert D. Crowley. "That depends on the meeting of the presidential search committee next week (Jan. 21-22). It is very possible at the conclusion of that meeting we will have narrowed the list to five and maybe even three candidates."

Crowley said the 12-member search committee will consider 17 and possibly 19 nominees.

The possibility a president will be named in March apparently

neutralizes a renewed controversy which surfaced Jan. 14, when an exchange of letters between Crowley and Lolley were made public in an article by Todd Ackerman in the Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer.

The article reports Crowley wrote to Lolley Dec. 15, and cited examples of what the chairman viewed as Lolley's "disruptive behavior on campus" and asked the president to step down early "for the good of the seminary."

It reports Lolley responded Dec. 19, saying he intends to stand by a trustee decision that he leave the presidency at the end of the school year — July 31, 1988 — or when a new president is elected.

Lolley, Dean Morris Ashcraft, and three top administrators resigned during a special called meeting of

seminary trustees Nov. 17. Lolley and Ashcraft were critical of trustee actions since conservatives gained a voting majority on the 31-member board and instituted new hiring policies.

Baptist Press attempted to obtain copies of the correspondence, but Ackerman declined to divulge his source. Crowley also declined to release a copy of his letter, saying he is "very dismayed it was released." Lolley was unavailable for comment.

(Continued on page 4)

Graham Smith elected to direct Church Music

Graham Smith has been elected director of the Church Music Department by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He will begin work with the board on Feb. 1.

The Gulfport native will replace Dan Hall who died last year.

Smith, 48, is associate pastor/administrator and minister of music at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, where he has served since 1980.

Earlier, he was minister of music at Temple, Hattiesburg, 1974-80; First, Pascagoula, 1967-74; First, Laurel, 1965-67; and he was minister of music

and youth at Central Church, Port Arthur, Tex., 1964-65, and at Collins Church, Collins, 1959-64.

Smith is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned the master of church music degree from New Orleans Seminary.

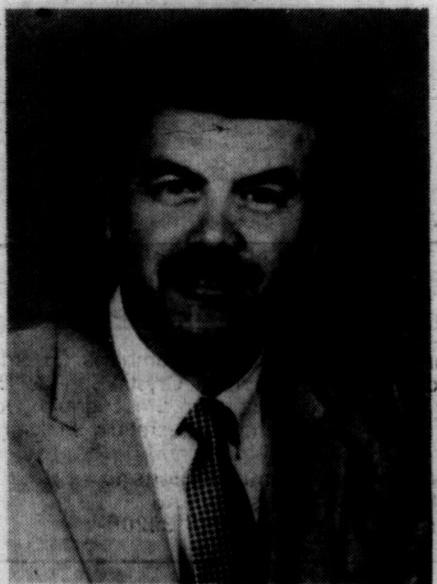
He has served on the MBCB, its executive committee, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Order of Business Committee.

Smith, a soloist, was charter president of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen when it formed in 1971, and has sung in community light opera.

He is married to the former Alice Ann McCann. They have two grown children.

The recommendation to hire Smith came from Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer, whose job description includes the statement, "recruits, recommends, and supervises the people to conduct the programs of the board."

According to Kelly, the personnel committee of the board has the prerogative after interviewing, to accept the prospect or to ask that person be eliminated from consideration. The Executive Committee votes after recommendations from Kelly and the personnel committee. The executive committee has the power to act in behalf of the board in professional employee matters.



Graham Smith

Evangelism Conference

Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson

Feb. 1-3

Theme: "Equipping the Laity in Evangelism"
Musicians: Irene Martin, Piano/Dot Pray, Organ
Congregational music director: L. Graham Smith

MONDAY EVENING

- Presiding — Guy Henderson
6:30 Mini Concert — Morrison Heights Sanctuary Choir
7:00 Congregational Praise — Prayer — Welcome
7:10 Message in Song — Russell Newport
7:15 "From the Pew to the Marketplace" — Perry Sanders
Acts 5:40-42
7:55 EVANGELISM IN MISSISSIPPI — Guy Henderson
8:10 Congregational Praise
Choral Worship — Morrison Heights Sanctuary Choir
8:20 "A Sleeping Prophet and Confused People" — Manuel Scott
Jonah 1
9:00 Adjourn.

TUESDAY MORNING

- Presiding — Chester Vaughn
8:45 Keyboard Praise — Prayer
Message in Song — L. Graham Smith
9:00 "Where There Is No Vision" — Manuel Scott
John 4:35-39
9:40 Message in Song — Russell Newport
9:45 "The Ministry of the Laity" — Frank Pollard
II Corinthians 3:1-5
10:20 Break
10:40 Congregational Praise
10:45 "Revival in the Local Church" — Pete Pearson
11:00 Mini Concert — Russell Newport
11:10 "How to Motivate the Saints" — Perry Sanders
Acts 4:31

(Continued on page 7)



Baptists picket casino boat.

About 50 Gulf Coast Baptists and a few of other denominations picketed the gambling ship that is berthed at Biloxi's Cadet Point on Friday and Saturday nights as Mississippi Legislature members were given a free trip on the boat except for whatever gambling expenses they had. In the photo above a line of pickets walks past the entrance to the ship area.



About 40 Mississippi legislators accepted the offer of a free weekend in Biloxi including a trip on the gambling ship. In the photo above, a line of legislators walks past a line of pickets.

Photos by Don McGregor

Pryor retires; Strum picked

The retirement of Paul J. Pryor as executive director, and the election of M. Kent Strum as his successor at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) has been announced by Zach Hederman, president of the hospital board of trustees.

Pryor has served as executive director for 32 years, during which time the state's largest private hospital with over 600 beds was constructed at a cost of \$35 million. According to Hederman, Pryor will retire with the title of director emeritus and will work with the Board of Administration in a consulting capacity.

Pryor has served as president of the Mississippi Hospital Association and the Baptist Hospital Association; board member of the Protestant Hospital Association and a member of the House of Delegates of the American Association and is a Fellow of the American College of Hospital Executives, having served as a Regent of the College.

(Continued on page 7)



Paul Pryor



MBCB Executive Committee

These are members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee. From left, standing, they are, Jim Futral, ex officio as convention president; Paul Stevens, Hinds-Madison; Ingram Foster, Jeff Davis; Martin Hayden, Itawamba; Jon Doler, Smith; Donald O'Quin; Tommy Vinson,

Northwest; Ernest Sadler, Gulf Coast; Gayle Alexander, Lee; Dan Robertson, Washington; John Henry, George; W. W. Walley, Wayne; Harold Ishee, Jones; George Smith, Carroll; seated are Rex Yancey, secretary, Clarke; Jerry Mixon, vice chairman, Montgomery; and Bill Duncan, Prentiss, chairman.

Messengers begin scramble for San Antonio rooms

By Marv Knox

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — With only about 300 hotel rooms still available to them, prospective messengers to next summer's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting have found themselves in a scramble for places to stay.

A poll of San Antonio hotels uncovered less than 300 non-reserved rooms currently available to messengers to the June 14-16 annual meeting in the Texas city.

The poll — conducted in December by the SBC Executive Committee — also disputed rumors that factions within the controversy-plagued convention are holding large blocks of hotel rooms for their supporters.

But a document prepared by the pro-moderate Baptist Laity Journal advertises 1,420 rooms in 13 San Antonio hotels.

Journal Editor Neal Rodgers confirmed reservations for the rooms are being coordinated through the newspaper's office: "The rooms came from us. I think everyone knows it. It's pretty common knowledge."

Rodgers said the majority of the rooms were booked through a single travel agent. "I just happened to come across a situation at the right time," he said.

Convention Manager Tim A. Hedquist said such blocks would not have appeared on the Executive Commit-

tee's hotel poll if they were listed as individual reservations. Rodgers said the reservations are not listed under the Journal's name but declined to say how they are held.

San Antonio room reservations have been an issue among Southern Baptists since early last fall. About 6,000 of them participated in a registration program, seeking reservations for 4,000 downtown hotel rooms.

The registration program was conducted by the San Antonio Housing Bureau, in cooperation with the SBC Executive Committee. All assignments were made to individuals whose housing request forms were dated Oct. 1, the first day of the program. More than 2,000 other requests could not be filled from the downtown convention block.

San Antonio has about 9,000 hotel rooms in addition to the 4,000 downtown rooms that were assigned through the October registration program, Hedquist said. But if the San Antonio meeting gains mammoth proportions — such as the 1985 and 1986 meetings, when more than 40,000 people showed up — housing indeed will be tight.

"One of the reasons these rooms (in the moderate-controlled block) are so important to us is that so many of our people were turned down in the draw"

held by the housing bureau in October, Rodgers told Baptist Press.

Several longtime moderate leaders did not get reservations in the downtown rooms, he said, explaining a need for securing facilities elsewhere.

Rodgers charged that SBC conservatives also have secured blocks of rooms for messengers who support their cause: "They've probably got more rooms than we do. They're just tight-lipped about it."

"I have friends who participated in the draw who were not able to get rooms," said Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge and conservative leader. "They then tried to get rooms from the secondary list that was supplied to them by Dr. Hedquist. They found these rooms had been taken, evidently not by individuals. I know many people scrambling for rooms."

Pressler added conservatives have not secured blocks from the motels listed by the Executive Committee following the October drawing. "I did not get any rooms at these 41 motels that were on the convention headquarters list. I don't know anyone who is involved in the conservative movement who did. There are some people scrambling to try to find some (rooms). I don't know what success we've had."

Hedquist said the downtown hotels included in the October drawing and the 41 hotels listed by the housing bureau represent virtually 100 percent of the city's usable hotel rooms.

Both Pressler and Rodgers told Baptist Press messengers should have a right to hotel rooms.

Pressler said: "I believe Southern Baptists are best served when we have maximum participation of messengers. It would be a tragedy if the liberals were able to pre-empt the rooms in such a way that it would deny grassroots Southern Baptists the right to participate fully in the national convention."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

Tenting at SBC, anyone?

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Messengers who have not secured hotel rooms for the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting may not have to camp out during the June 14-16 gathering here. But help is available for those who choose that route.

A list of recreational vehicle campgrounds, and information about available amenities, may be obtained from the SBC Executive Committee, said Convention Manager Tim A. Hedquist.

Hedquist's office also can provide up-to-date information on the availability of hotel rooms, he said. Hedquist secured agreements from most hotel managers that the hotels will contact the Executive Committee when additional rooms become available.

For information on camping and hotels, contact SBC Housing, 901 Commerce, Nashville, Tenn. 37203; phone (615) 244-2355.

Mississippians write for BSSB publications

A number of Mississippians are among curriculum writers for Sunday School Board publications to be released in 1989-90.

They include Stuart Calvert, Ashland Church, Ashland, writing for The Adult Teacher, Sept.-Nov., 1989;

Anthony S. Kay, First Church, Calhoun City, Sunday School Young Adults, Mar.-May, 1990;

Ray F. Robbins, First Church, Clinton, Adult VBS, 1989-90;

Graham Hales, First Church, Hattiesburg, Sunday School Adults, Sept.-Nov., 1989;

Evelyn Vaughn, First Church, Jackson, Bible Searchers, Jan., 1990;

Judy Hicks, Alta Woods Church, Jackson, Preschool Bible Teacher A, Nov., Feb., and July, 1989-90;

Keith Williams, First Church, Clinton, Adult Bible Teacher, July-Sept., 1990;

J. Gerald Harris, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, Sunday School Adults, Mar.-May, 1990;

Keith Wilkinson, Pinelake Church,

Brandon, Youth in Action and Teacher, Jan.-Mar., 1990;

Lala Ball Cooper, First Church, Oxford, Youth in Action and Teacher, July-Sept., 1990.

Barbara Yarbrough, Bowmar Avenue Church, Vicksburg, Preschool Bible Teacher C, April-June, 1990;

Peggy Ward, Highland Church, Vicksburg, Preschool Bible Teacher B, Oct.-Dec., 1989 and Apr.-June, 1990;

Vernon Sikes, First Church, Yazoo City, Bible Book Study for Adults, Apr.-June, 1990;

Pam Keith, Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale, Youth in Discovery and Teacher, Jan.-Mar., 1990.

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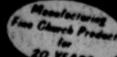
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Southeastern trustees

(Continued from page 3)

In his report, Ackerman wrote:

"In his Dec. 15 letter, Crowley wrote: 'You continue to 1) use the term 'fundamentalist,' which you know to be untrue and incendiary; 2) give statistics which are the fruits of your self-fulfilling prophecy to see the seminary die instead of change; and 3) tell the most intimate details of our negotiations of the November 17 meeting. Is there any question why the trustees want an end to all of this?'

"Lolley responded on Dec. 19. 'It does not take any genius to detect that you are attempting to shift the responsibility for what has happened on this campus since October 12-14, 1987, from yourself and a new majority of the trustees, to me and others who have loved this school with our best service for a generation,' Lolley wrote."

Ackerman also wrote: "Crowley's letter said that 'because my own personal integrity is coming into question . . . the time has come to set the record straight.'

"Crowley referred to two actions by Lolley that angered him. One was the Nov. 17 trustee meeting when Lolley told conservatives he would say he was fired if they voted to make his resignation effective Jan. 1 instead of the July 31 date set in an ad hoc meeting of Lolley, Crowley, and three other trustees two weeks before. The other was a one-on-one conversation Dec. 8 in which Lolley rejected Crowley's plea that the resignation be moved up to March.

"Much has been said about 'raw power' in recent years," wrote Crowley in the letter. "In my opinion, what you did to us on the morning of November 17 and to me personally on December 8 was an exercise of RAW POWER. The efforts to intimidate your board of trustees since your convocation address are multitudinous."

"In his response, Lolley said Crowley's letter established his side 'as a participant in these traumatic days.'

"Lolley accused Crowley of succumbing to pressure 'to get Lolley out early' and said he was 'committed to keeping documented agreements.' His letter ended with 'there is no point at all in any further conversation to break those agreements.' the article says.

Although declining to make a copy of the letter available to Baptist Press, Crowley said the five-page letter was "not written in a mean spirit, but to try to clarify some things. The letter was a chronology of events."

The purpose was not to get Lolley out quicker but to set 'the record straight.'

He said the search committee "is getting very close" to naming a replacement for Lolley. "At the present time, we have 17 nominees," he said.

The search committee had three requirements to consider someone a nominee, he said. They are that someone had to nominate the person and be willing to be named, a resume had to be presented and the nominee had to give his permission.

Crowley said the committee "will very carefully and prayerfully consider each nominee. We want so-

meone who will lead us in the great tradition of Southeastern Seminary. We need someone with maturity, who is in the mainstream of Baptist life and who has the highest academic credentials."

When asked if the committee will pick a controversial person to head the seminary, Crowley responded: "A requirement is that the person be able to bring peace to the school and the convention. We would be very foolish to do something what would bring further division . . ."

During their Jan. 21-22 meeting, the search committee will meet with the seminary advisory task force and receive the group's presidential profile. "We will listen to them very carefully," the chairman said.

Crowley made public the names of the persons to be considered by the search committee after a partial list was printed in a secular newspaper.

Those who have given permission to be considered by the search committee are:

Clint Ashley, president of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, Calgary, Alberta; William Bennett, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Ark., now in a conference ministry; Don Berry, chairman of the biblical studies and philosophy department at Palm Beach Atlantic College, Palm Beach, Fla.;

L. Russ Bush III, associate professor of the philosophy of religion, Southwestern Seminary; Charles Chaney, dean of the Redford School of Theology and Church Vocations, Southwestern Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.; Abda Johnson Conyers III, chairman of the religion department, Baptist College of Charleston (S.C.);

Lewis A. Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism and director of the Billy Graham Center for World Evangelization, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; James Franklin Eaves, professor of evangelism, Southwestern Seminary; John D. Floyd, vice president of development and public relations, Mid-America Seminary.

Timothy George, associate professor of church history and historical theology, Southern Seminary; Richard D. Land, administrative assistant to the governor of Texas and former administrator at Criswell College, Dallas; Richard Melick Jr., professor of New Testament and Greek, Mid-America Seminary; Jimmy A. Millikin, professor of theology, Mid-America Seminary;

Thomas Nettles, chairman of the department of church history, Mid-America Seminary; Charles M. O'Neal, pastor of First Baptist Church, Searcy, Ark., and doctor of ministries candidate at Southwestern Seminary; Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College, and Gene Miller Williams, president, Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.;

Two other persons likely to be considered are Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va., and chairman of the SBC Peace Committee, and Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, and former professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary.

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

Devotional

Man's extremity, God's opportunity

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

By Aubrey L. Boone

And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. For when I am weak, then am I strong.

Have you, like me, had times in your life when you have done all you can and still there is failure?

I think this must have been one of the things on Paul's mind when he wrote 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. I believe he is saying to you and to me that when we come to this time we should be thankful, because now God will be able to perform another miracle in your life.

The Bible is filled with examples of men who had exhausted all human resources to achieve victory, but failed; then God gave the victory.

In Mark 4:35-40, we have the record of his disciples, even though they were seasoned fishermen and accustomed to rough water, who were afraid of the storm and could do nothing about it. Then Jesus calmed the sea.

Mark 5:25-30 tells of the "woman with the issue of blood" and how she had spent all she had trying to be healed and could not; yet she had faith to believe that by touching the garment of Jesus she would be healed.

Mark 9:14-18 tells of the man bringing his demonic son to Jesus to be healed. He said he had even tried the disciples and they could not heal him, which would lead you to believe he had tried everything he knew and still failed. Now Jesus could perform a miracle.

In Acts 27:9-25 we have the record of Paul being carried to Rome to appear before Caesar and the shipwreck that destroyed the ship and endangered all their lives. The sailors on this ship were seasoned veterans and knew how to sail in bad weather, but it was only after they had done everything they knew to do that God intervened in the form of an angel to deliver them, if only they would obey his word.

Each of these has one thing in common. God acted after man had done all he could.

As we come to the time in our daily walk that we say: "I can't solve this problem or overcome this particular obstacle;" may we pause and say, "Thank you, God, for this time and I am trusting you to provide the answer or solution."

Aubrey Boone is executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

Child care preparations underway for Convention

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — San Antonio Baptists have begun preparing for children whose parents will participate in the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in the Texas city June 14-16.

Preschool child care will be provided at First Baptist Church, located downtown and within walking distance of San Antonio Convention Center, site of the annual meeting, and most downtown hotels. A missions day camp for grade-school children will be held at the Ruble Community Center of Trinity Baptist Church.

Preschool care will be available to convention messengers' children who are five years old and younger. Parents may register their children by sending \$15 per child to SBC Preschool Care, First Baptist Church, 515 McCullough, San Antonio, Texas 78205.

Cost of the care will be \$7.50 for each four-hour session of the convention. The meeting will include three sessions Tuesday, June 14; two sessions Wednesday, June 15; and two sessions Thursday, June 16.

When their registration fees are received, the children's parents will receive information packets containing maps, health forms, and policies and procedures. The packets also will provide information about special

parking for parents of children who participate in the program.

A new feature of the preschool program will be a noon meal for parents, which will be served at First Baptist's fellowship hall, said Convention Manager Tim A. Hedquist. The meal will be available for a nominal charge, he said, noting parents, not childcare workers, will be responsible for feeding the children.

The missions day camp will accommodate school-age children through the sixth grade. "Jesus Calls for Change" will be the theme of the camp, and children will study the 1988 Backyard Bible Club material prepared by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Other activities will include sports and crafts, recreation and a visit to San Antonio's zoo.

Day camp registration will be conducted in the convention center at a booth in the area where parents will register as convention messengers.

Camp fees will be \$7 per day. Supplemented by the Brotherhood Commission, the fees will cover all camp expenses, including meals and snacks.

Preschoolers will be allowed into the convention center at all times when accompanied by their parents, Hedquist said. Daycampers will be allowed into the center during the annual meeting's evening sessions.

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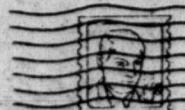
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Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Finally some action

Editor:

Great news! AT&T just called to say they are filing a petition with the FCC to stop billing for dial-a-porn companies. They had called on Jan. 6 to say they planned to do this. Their action follows several months of attempts by AFA to get AT&T to take such action. On Dec. 14 I wrote chrm. John E. Olson letting him know that if AT&T did not discontinue the dial-a-porn by Jan. 15, we were preparing a major campaign to get customers to switch to other long-distance carriers that refused dial-a-porn. Moral persuasion didn't do a lot of good, but economic persuasion did! This action by AT&T should put a crippling blow to the dial-a-porn billion dollar a year business.

More great news! The FCC called Tuesday to let us know that they are taking action against TV station KZKC in Kansas City for showing the movie *Private Lessons*. The complaint about the movie was made to the FCC last June by Treva Burk, an AFA supporter in Kansas City who called our office asking what she could do. We gave her instructions which she followed. The FCC did nothing until this week. The FCC recently received thousands and thousands of letters of protest from AFA supporters (the result of a recent

mail-out about their lack of enforcement). I think those letters prompted the FCC to act. How significant is the FCC action? It is the first action ever by the FCC against a television station for airing indecency! And it is the first action pertaining to broadcasting indecency in 11 years!

Donald E. Wildmon
Executive Director
American Family Association
Tupelo

Never know the difference

Editor:

It seems to me that the Southern Baptist religious leaders, with all their quarreling and squabbling for control of the convention, need to step back just a bit and take a good look at the impression that they are making on the Baptist lay members of the church as well as the people who are outside the church.

Practically all my life, from a Baptist pulpit, I have heard it preached, that the Holy Spirit will lead a believer into all truth. And where there are two agreed and ask in his name, it shall be done. However, the actions that I've seen now for several years in the convention are causing a shadow to be cast on these two

statements. Here we have on either side dedicated men who truly believe that they are God-called preachers and who, I am sure, pray to the Holy Spirit very sincerely for guidance. Yet there is still this discord and confusion.

It's puzzling to me. And when I ask why there is no spiritual guidance for these leaders, many who have spent their life, or most of it, in church work, the only answer that I get is that they're just not allowing the Holy Spirit to lead them.

To me this isn't an answer. How do you, or they, suppose this looks to people outside the church who need to be reached? And why should I, an ignorant lay-member, expect the Holy Spirit to show me the way in my small problems if these leaders, who are highly educated in religious matters, are not guided along the way?

Frankly, I feel that if Southern Baptists never held another convention, a small rural church such as ours would never know the difference.

Lamar Wray
Kilmichael

Why is the ship allowed

Editor:

Mississippians take notice. Our state has been invaded by gambling industry. Ships loaded with illegal gambling equipment are allowed anchor in Mississippi waters and sell tickets for a gambling cruise. This is a mockery to the intentions of our no-

gambling laws and enforcement. This does not represent the will of the majority and the laws passed by their elected legislators. The implication would be no different if a ship loaded with cocaine were allowed to anchor in our territory and sell tickets for a "cocaine" cruise with cargo to be opened when out of reach of the law.

When illegal gambling equipment is found in cities and counties it is seized and destroyed. Why is this allowed on our coast?

This illegal operation must be stopped. If allowed to continue, Mississippi is "sunk." Other gambling operations will move in. It will mean another plunge downward on the ladder of moral standards.

The officials responsible for allowing such operations should be removed from authority and replaced with someone who will uphold the highest moral standards for our state.

Alney D. Entrekin
Purvis

I was there Saturday night and watched Biloxi Mayor Gerald Blessey and State Rep. Glenn Endris board the ship, among others. I would "bet" that if this ship were required to anchor 15 miles out or even three miles, there would be no passengers. — Editor

War on litterbugs

Editor:

When I read "War on Litter," I was saddened. I am the "litter control" chairman for the Bay Springs Garden Club.

Yes, our highways and roadsides do look like garbage dumps, and this is a disgrace to us all.

I, personally, disagree with the method being proposed for the "clean-up."

I, for one individual, believe that our main problem is lack of Law Enforcement. Our \$500 signs, as well as others, are laughed at by our "litterbugs." I believe more laws could and should be enforced.

In the last year I attended several meetings concerning "litter control" and even helped to "clean-up" litter and put up signs for the "litterbugs" to laugh at and litter even more.

Our government spends millions of dollars at the present time speaking out and educating, so to speak, our "immoral generation" how to exist by protecting themselves from the deadly killers of the body and even give free protection. We have failed to speak up and speak out on the fact that "Cleanliness is akin to Godliness." I think we are afraid to mention the name of God in a good way for fear we wind up in court. God must be sick of the filth that is seen in our society today. So am I.

One can't clean up the life of another. Groups cleaning up litter will NOT work.

Pressure usually causes an explosion. I would like to see an explosion of law enforcement and see if some of the "litterbugs" can't be stopped. Let us try it; we might like it.

Maxine Little
Bay Springs

Book Reviews

Allen, R. Earl & Gregory, Joel. *Southern Baptist Preaching Today.* Broadman, Nashville, 1987.

The authors are pastors of Rosen Heights Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX, and Travis Avenue Baptist Church, of the same city and state respectively.

The book is a monumental work in Southern Baptist preaching. It contains sermons from 49 outstanding preachers in the Southern Baptist Convention in churches ranging in membership from 300 to 22,000.

The book has three sections. The first contains the actual sermons submitted by the various pastors. The second is an interesting and quite informative section entitled "How they prepare." Each preacher was asked to submit a paper briefly outlining the process they go through in sermon preparation. I found this to be a quite informative section. One finds fresh ideas that prove helpful in sermon preparation through reading how others prepare.

The third section of the book is entitled "About the Preachers." It contains biographical sketches on each preacher. Obviously, one receives more from some messages than others. However, as a whole, the sermons are good. One could find much illustrative material as well "sermon seeds" in the book.

It would be profitable reading for any preacher. — Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor, Providence Church, near Meadville.

THE MESSIAH by Marjorie Holmes (Harper and Row, 396 pp., \$15.95) This novel is the third in a trilogy which Marjorie Holmes has written about the life of Jesus. As usual, her writing is beautifully done and extensively researched. The first of the three was *Two from Galilee*, the story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus. In the second, *Three from Galilee: The Young Man from Nazareth*, she recreates "the lost years" of Jesus' life, between 12 and 30, the time not told about in the Gospels. The Messiah begins with Jesus' miracle of the wine for the wedding at Cana and goes on through the years of Jesus' ministry, his crucifixion, and resurrection. In these novels, the author uses her imagination to depict the Bible characters in full human dimension.

At the same time, her writing shows a reverence for the Scriptures. Marjorie Holmes, author of 25 books, is a former columnist for the Washington Star and for Woman's Day. She lives with her doctor husband near Pittsburgh. This latest of her works is well worth reading. — AWM

Peace is not a season, it is a way of life. — Celestial Seasonings.

Nothing leaves a man colder in the winter than adding up the fuel bill. — The Indianapolis Star

The only medicine that needs no prescription, has no unpleasant taste, and costs no money is laughter.

Just for the Record



Calvary Church, Cleveland, held its GA Recognition Service on Oct. 4. The theme was "Diamonds By Design."

Pictured, front row, left to right, are Kim Dean, Brandi Ivie, Caroline Barefoot, Alisha Moreno, Jennifer Barefoot, Kim Prescott, Leigh Ann Pierce, Leslie Hilburn, and Jennifer Noblin.



The Baptist Student Union at Jones County Junior College has a ministry of outreach to the local nursing home three days each week, visiting and presenting programs for the residents.

This ministry has provided opportunities for many students. Some of these students will go next summer on mission trips for one week or become summer missionaries for ten weeks.

Pictured, seated (left to right) are Duane Weems and two nursing home residents, standing, Jessica Hill, Jamie Lewis, Lisa Crosby, Paula Turnage, Michelle McGuire, Michelle Reddock, and Darlene Johnson.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

Lillian Dorris Thornton

Part II

As one of nine sons and three daughters in the Dorris family, Lillian grew up in Montgomery County. At age 5, with a sister and two brothers, she walked the 2½ miles across plowed ground, and Lewis Creek, to a one-room school. They would arrive at 8 and leave at 4. If it rained and the creek flooded, their dad would come in the wagon to fetch them home. "I remember how cold I would be when we got to school!" she said.

The school had no grading other than first reader, second reader, etc., up to the fifth reader. The older students were taught mental arithmetic; they were not allowed pencil or paper, but were required to work out the answers in their heads and to give the answers orally.

Once, in an art lesson, Lillian drew a redbird that her mother kept until 1927 and the Great Flood of the Mississippi River washed it away. (In 1927 her parents were living in Yazoo County and the Thorntons were living in Brandon, paying \$10 a month rent.)

The Dorries had water in their house nine weeks. They stayed with the Thorntons until the water went down.)

"At school we usually opened the day with Bible reading and sometimes a religious song," Lillian recalled recently. "We had ten minutes recess at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and lunch of half hour at noon. Usually a sweet potato, buttered biscuit with small bottle of syrup, sometimes a fried fruit pie, and if it were hog killing weather, a sausage biscuit which we carried in 5 lb. lard buckets." Her mother had made a sack to sling over her shoulder, to put her reader and spelling book and copybook in.

In the unpainted, sparsely furnished room, Lillian's desk was so high

she had to get on her knees to write. The teacher and older pupils would go out into the woods to search for wood to burn in the school's pot-bellied stove.

When Lillian was 16 and a senior at Kilmichael Ag High, the county superintendent of education asked her father at Christmas if she might become a teacher right away, as he needed one. She took the state teachers' exam and got a license. (Her teacher also took the exam and Lillian beat her teacher by 10 percent on the grade average.)

She then taught school for several years, not going back to high school, but taking six-week terms at State Teachers' College for several years. Then she became a home demonstration agent and met and married Duke Thornton, Tallahatchie County native and a 1918 graduate of Mississippi State University.

When the couple's sixth daughter was born, Lillian confessed to Duke that when she was young and doing the ironing for nine brothers she had prayed she would never have anything but girls. "Well, if I'd known that, I'd never have married you!" he grunted. Nevertheless, he was happy with his girls.

Their first daughter died at the age of two hours and the second at the age of five years. Their four others are Lorene (Cain) who lives in Jackson; Lillian (Landry), in Houston, Texas; Mary Nell (Currie), in Kansas City; and Carolyn Duke (Brown), in Canada. For the delivery of one daughter, they paid the doctor with a 900-lb. pig they'd owned in Brandon before they moved to Jackson.

Two of the daughters were graduated from Louisiana State, one from Ole Miss, and one from Wisconsin.

sin University. All of them majored in music. Many of the Thornton's six grandchildren have also exhibited unusual talent in music. I know that Duke Cain is a past president of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra Association and that his sister, Lucy, is chairman of the Houston Community College Music Department and conducts an orchestra there. (Another grandson, Craig Currie, won a \$30,000 college scholarship.)

Perhaps the children and grandchildren inherited the interest in music from "Ninny." Once the organ peddler came to stay at the Dorris home for a week. While he made rounds in his buggy, he left a sample organ at the house. Little Lillian pumped it all week and picked out tunes by ear. The peddler asked Mr. Dorris, "Won't you buy it for her?" Her papa said, "I have no money. Will you take a cow and calf?" The peddler would and did.

Not until a long time later, after she was married and moved to Brandon, did she take music lessons. Then, at the end of her series of lessons, she gave a piano recital, and began to play the piano in church and Sunday School.

When she was 16, she made a public profession of faith and was baptized. "I never remember the exact date of my believing in Jesus. I seem always to have had that belief. I prayed much as a child, often under my special tree. You had to pray, to live with nine brothers!"

In writing notes for a Sunday School lesson one week, she jotted down these things she thinks it's important to remember:

"It's what you are — not who.
Honesty is the best policy.
Your word is your bond."

Annie gifts top \$30 million

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists gave a record \$30,246,290 through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions during 1987.

The \$30.2 million total was an increase of \$2,435,913, or 8.76 percent, over gifts through the Annie Armstrong Offering in 1986.

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, announced the final figures to the staff of the Home Mission Board, and to the executive board of Woman's Missionary Union which co-sponsors the offering with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Lewis said the rate of increase was double the rate of inflation, but acknowledged the offering fell short of the \$37.5 million goal by about 20 percent.

Lewis pointed out that the 1988 goal is the same as the 1987 goal.

"This is not an unrealistic goal. We can do it," he insisted.

Howard Smith is new DOM for Warren/Yazoo counties

Howard D. Smith is the new director of missions for Warren/Yazoo Association. Since 1977 he has been pastor of Trinity Church in Vicksburg.

The Brookhaven native was pastor of Kilmichael Church, Kilmichael, 1973-77; served on the direct mission department

staff for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, 1971-73; was pastor of Washington Church, Washington, 1967-71; Georgetown Church, Grant Parish, La.; and Lone Pine Church, Franklin Parish, La., 1961-64. Student pastorate included Savoy Church, Lauderdale County; Big Springs Church, Lincoln; Old Pearl Valley Church, Neshoba; and Calvary Church, Lincoln.

Smith is a graduate of Mississippi

College and earned a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Smith and his wife, Betty, have two grown children.

Hiram Powell is in Brazil for two years

Hiram Powell, a member of Parkway Church, Jackson, will be serving for two years in Brazil as a mission service corps volunteer constructing pre-fab chapels. He arrived on the field Jan. 2. His address is Caixa Postal 109453, 28970 Araruama, RJ, Brazil.

Powell is the father of Monica Ivey, a secretary in the program director's office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



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Smith is a graduate of Mississippi

Thursday, January 21, 1988

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Evangelism Conference

(Continued from page 3)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

- 1:45 Keyboard Praise
- 1:55 Congregational Praise — Prayer
- 2:00 "Called — But Called to Do What?" — Tom Elliff
Ephesians 4:11-12
- 2:40 Message in Song — Jay and Martha Richardson
- 2:45 "Church Renewal TODAY" — Tommy Snyder
- 2:55 "Women in Evangelism" — Esther Burroughs
- 3:05 Break
- 3:20 "CWT Can Make the Difference." — Don Rhymes
- 3:30 Congregational Praise
- 3:35 "Lay Evangelism — How Important Is It?" — Maurice Flowers
- 3:50 Mini Concert — Russell Newport
- 4:00 "SOS: Solving Our Setbacks" — O. S. Hawkins
Joshua 7:1-21

Presiding — Jon Doler

TUESDAY EVENING

- 6:35 Mini Concert — Parkway Sanctuary Choir — Prayer
- 7:00 "Joseph — Faithful Layman" — John Bramlett
- 7:40 Congregational Praise
- Message in Song — Russell Newport
- 7:45 "Bold New Growth — Mississippi"
- 8:00 Choral Worship — Parkway Sanctuary Choir
- 8:05 Congregational Praise
- Mini Concert — Celoria Family
- 8:20 "Practical Ministries for Purposeful People" — Tom Elliff
Colossians 4:7-18
- 9:00 Adjourn.

Presiding — Guy Henderson

WEDNESDAY MORNING

- 8:45 Keyboard Praise
- 8:55 Congregational Praise — Prayer
- 9:00 "Evangelism and A People On Mission" — Larry Lewis
Colossians 1:27-29
- 9:40 Mini Concert — Russell Newport
- 9:50 "Equipped With Spiritual Armor" — John Bramlett
Ephesians 6:10-20
- 10:20 Congregational Praise
- Message in Song — Russell Newport
- 10:40 "Spirit-Led Obedience in Evangelism" — O. S. Hawkins
John 14:16-21
- 11:20 Adjourn.

Presiding — Guy Henderson

Pryor sets . . . High school men will rally

(Continued from page 3)

Hederman praised Pryor as "an able hospital administrator with vision and a broad understanding of health care delivery." He noted particularly the many "firsts" during Pryor's years including the Radiation Therapy Center for the treatment of cancer, the Chemical Dependency Center for the treatment of drug and alcohol abuse, the MRI Diagnostic Unit and the construction of the new Medical Arts Plaza.

Strum, who will become executive director on Feb. 1, has been associated with MBMC in an administrative capacity for more than 10 years as assistant administrator, associate director, and chief operating officer.

Prior to coming to MBMC, Strum served as executive director of Memorial Hospital at Gulfport and as assistant director at the University of Mississippi Hospital. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned a master's degree in hospital administration from the Medical College of Virginia.

High School Baptist Young Men from eight states including Mississippi will meet in Gatlinburg, Tenn., Feb. 5-7, for the first Regional High School Baptist Young Men's Rally.

The event, sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, is targeted to High School-Baptist Young Men's members and leaders in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

All sessions of the weekend rally will be held at the River Terrace Hotel and Conference Center in Gatlinburg.

Messages by Home Missionary Randy Foster, Jackson Hole, Wyo., Tim McCall, Southern Baptist missionary physician in Eku, Nigeria, and James Smith, Brotherhood Commission president will highlight the three-day event.

Paul Wrenn, the "World's Strongest Man," will perform feats of strength and give his Christian testimony. Music will be provided by the Belmont Reasons from Nashville.

Conferences focusing on High School Baptist Young Men's programming and leadership will highlight the second day of the rally. Conference leaders include Richard Ross, youth ministry coordinator consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board; Dean Finley, Home Mission Board consultant for youth evangelism; and Tom Garrison of the Foreign Mission Board.

For details contact Jim Didlake, RA consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, phone 968-3800.



Strum

Mississippians are graduated from Southern Seminary



Ireland Waddle

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Seven students from Mississippi were awarded degrees from the Southern Seminary during the school's 160th commencement, December 18.

They were among approximately 205 persons to receive degrees from

the schools of theology, church music, Christian education, and social work.

Landrum P. Leavell, II, president of New Orleans Seminary, delivered the commencement address.

The Mississippi graduates included the following:

Master of Divinity — Olinda Frances Wilson, Brandon; Christopher A. Tiegreen, Greenville; Walter Ray McWhorter, Leland. **Doctor of Philosophy** — William J. Ireland, Jr., Greenville. **Master of Divinity in Christian Education** — Melva Graham Clark, Independence. **Doctor of Ministry** — Dudley Marion Waddle, New Albany. **Master of Arts in Christian Education** — Davis Wayne Marshall, Tupelo.

Staff Changes

Billy Ingram retired Dec. 22 and is available for supply and interim pastorate. He has served as pastor for 38 years in Mississippi, the last 17 years at Freedom Church in Jones County. He can be reached at Rt. 2, Box 235, Magee, MS 39111 or phone 849-5934.

Steve Street has been called as minister of singles at First Church, Charlotte, N.C. He is a Dec. 1987 graduate of Southwestern Seminary and a native of Columbus, Miss. He has previously served as minister of youth at Fairview Church, Columbus. Joe N. McKeever is pastor.

Calvary Church, Petal, called W.C. Rainey of Petal as its minister of music and staff evangelist effective Dec. 6.

Phil T. Harris is pastor.

Robert Lee Jones has recently been called by Alta Woods Church, Jackson, to serve as minister of music, effective January 24. He was ordained at and comes from Clear Lake Church, Houston, Tex. Jones graduated from Southwestern Seminary with a master of church music degree, May 14, 1976.

Jones and his wife, Marilyn, have a daughter, Christine, age 12, and a son, Jeremy, age 8.

WMU Centennial banquet sold out in six weeks

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — During the first six weeks of registration for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Centennial Celebration in Richmond, the Saturday evening banquet has sold out. The banquet is the only event during the celebration which requires a separate ticket.

General session tickets to the celebration, which are still available will allow admittance to all general sessions. It will also include "Celebration in the Park," an afternoon fair featuring strolling musicians, mimes, Centennial quilt-judging contest, and box supper. "Centennial Hall," a hands-on, historical exhibit, will also be open to all participants. Tickets are \$35.

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SATELLITE NETWORK, INC

Effective January 25, 1988

CT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	Joy Music Gloria	Sgt. Preston Bill Cosby Show	Adventures of the Lone Ranger	Great Churches of America (1)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (1)	Family Foundations Sunday School Lesson
6	"This Is The Life" Hospital	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Popcorn Theater
7	First Love Wendell Estep Cleveland	Prime Timers Sunshine Factory	Profiles Sunshine Factory	Word of Life Sunshine Factory	Praise Song Sunshine Factory	Catch the Spirit Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Sunshine of the Yukon
8	ACTS Methodist Tour	Shirley, the Bush Kangaroo Lampie	Shirley, the Bush Kangaroo Lampie	Shirley, the Bush Kangaroo Lampie	Shirley, the Bush Kangaroo Lampie	Shirley, the Bush Kangaroo Lampie	Lone Ranger Adventures of the Lone Ranger
9	Come Alive Nelson Price	On In The Spirit Sgt. Nelson Price	Catch the Spirit Adventures of the Lone Ranger	This Is The Life Come Alive Nelson Price	Joy of Life Perry Sanders In Concert	Catching Lifestyle Great Churches of America (1)	Popcorn Theater
10	Catch the Spirit PBC, Richmond	Bill Cosby Our World	26 Men What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	26 Men
11	Great Churches (1)	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Jimmy Houston Outdoors Outdoor Magazine
12	The Baptist Hour	Profiles Eugene Oestreiche	Profiles Eugene Oestreiche	Word of Life Eugene Oestreiche	Praise Song Eugene Oestreiche	Catch the Spirit Eugene Oestreiche	Popcorn Groom Dress Sport Hotel
13	Sunday Selection	Family Foundations Sunday School Lesson
14	..	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Devry and General Sport Hotel
15	Love Worth Finding R. Rivers	Psychiatry With You Sunshine	Psychiatry With You Sunshine	Psychiatry With You Sunshine	Psychiatry With You Sunshine	Psychiatry With You Sunshine	Sunshine Factory Sunshine of the Yukon
16	Joy Music One in the Spirit	Shirley, the Bush Kangaroo Lampie	Shirley, the Bush Kangaroo Lampie	Shirley, the Bush Kangaroo Lampie	Shirley, the Bush Kangaroo Lampie	Shirley, the Bush Kangaroo Lampie	Lone Ranger Adventures of the Lone Ranger
17	Making Life Count The Link	Adventures of the Lone Ranger	Great Churches of America (1)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (1)	Sgt. Preston Bill Cosby Show	Popcorn Theater
18	Insight ACTS Methodist Tour	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today
19	Gloria	Profiles Word of Life	Profiles Word of Life	Praise Song	Catch the Spirit	Prime Timers	Country Crossroads
20	The Baptist Evening Worship	Joy Music Truth Alive Tom Herold	Catch the Spirit For Three Times Robert White	Invitation to Life Perry Sanders	Strength for Life Ken Hemphill	..	Great Churches of America (1)
21	Richard Jackson	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Family Foundations Sunday School Lesson
22	Joy Music Gloria	Egocentric Theatre	Egocentric Theatre	The Baptist Hour	Egocentric Theatre	Egocentric Theatre	Dover and Gothic Dress Sport Hotel
23	Sunday Selection
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Laurel	Comcast Cable	Ch 31
	U.A. Cable	Ch 6
	Laurel Community Cable	Ch 18

For information contact:

Farrell Blankenship
Miss. Baptist Conv. Bd.
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH CONFERENCES

Should EVERY Mississippi Baptist Sunday School grow in 1988?

"I believe that every Sunday School can prepare itself to reach people. It takes hard work. It takes prayer. But growth can be the result. Our task is to help churches build caring Sunday Schools ready to reach out to the lost in their communities."

Keith Wilkinson, Director
Sunday School Department

Regional SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH Whistlestop Tour (North Mississippi)

Practical handles for growth in your Sunday School.

Conferences:

- Cradle Roll
- Growth Spiral
- Homebound
- Starting New Adult Classes
- Outreach Bible Study
- YouthPlus
- Sunday School Revivals
- ChildReach

Dates/Locations:

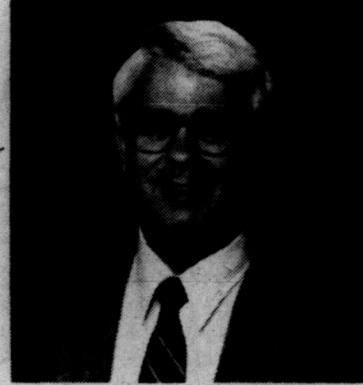
- February 29 — Colonial Hills
Southaven; 7:00-9:30 p.m.
- March 1 — FBC, Corinth; 7:00-9:30 p.m.
- March 2 — FBC, Tupelo; 9:30 a.m.-Noon
- March 3 — FBC, Starkville; 7:00-9:30 p.m.

STATE GROWTH SPIRAL CONFERENCE

February 16, 1988

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, OXFORD

9:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m.



Andy Anderson

* Advanced Growth Spiral — Ken Marler

* Base Growth Spiral — Andy Anderson

* Age Group Growth Spiral Conference

Age Group Conference Leaders: Ron Pratt — Adults; Stan Hickerson — Youth; Ann Vandergriff — Children; Martha Durepo — Preschool.

1988 Sunday School Leadership Conferences Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

- I. ASSIST/Small Church Sunday School Conference
July 28-30
- II. Sunday School Leadership August 1-3
- III. Sunday School Leadership August 4-6
- IV. Sunday School Leadership August 8-10
- V. Sunday School Leadership August 11-13
- VI. Preschool, Children September 9-10
- VII. Youth, Adult, General Officers September 16-17

Preachers for Summer Sessions:

- * Julian Fagan, August 1-3; 4-6
- * Jim Futral, August 8-10; 11-13

Registration begins March 1

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Write or call: Sunday School Department

- Growth Whistlestops
- Growth Spiral
- Sunday School Convention
- Gulfshore

Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: 601/968-3800



Harry Piland

TOUCH LIVES CHANGE PEOPLE

STATE SUNDAY
SCHOOL CONVENTION
April 8-9, 1988
Alta Woods Baptist Church,
Jackson

* 130 Conferences

* Inspirational Messages

* Leadership Training

* Attendance Goal: 1,988

For: Pastors, church staff, Sunday School directors, Sunday School teachers, department directors, outreach leaders, secretaries, adult class members

Begins 6:30 p.m. April 8 — concludes 3:00 p.m. April 9

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Be careful how you use God's name!

By M. Dean Register

What does it mean to take God's name in vain? When my cousin was a youngster he began to curse occasionally and during one unguarded moment he cursed in the presence of his aunt. His aunt loved a good joke as well as anyone, but she wouldn't tolerate a filthy mouth. Consequently she took my cousin into the bathroom, picked up a bar of old-fashioned soap and proceeded to wash out his mouth. It was a bitter lesson, but to this day he remembers the discipline.

With all the expletives we hear I wonder if our society isn't in need of a thorough cleansing. Profanity is certainly a problem that the third commandment addresses, but it is not the



Register

LIFE AND WORK

only problem. What does it mean to take God's name in vain?

In Old Testament times a name was synonymous with a person's character and reputation. God's name reflected his holiness and justice. It referred to his dependability. Jesus explained that God's name was a hallowed name, one that is sanctified and set apart. To abuse or misuse the name of God is to insult the character of God.

The meaning of the third commandment is best understood by description. Let me describe three ways in which we violate this commandment. First, we take God's name in vain when we drag it through the gutter of our own sinful vocabulary. I realize that profaning God is common speech for a lost person, but it must never be included in the believer's vernacular. The

word "vain" in Hebrew means irreverence, emptiness, or falsehood. When the name of God is taken into the pits of filth it is emptied of its reverent significance. The person who smudges the Lord's name leaves a trail of smut upon his own soul.

Second, we take God's name in vain when we use him to foster our own cause. Religious commercials, political endorsements, and preacher mail-outs that exalt a cause or a ministry to the point of manipulation are acts of vanity with God's name thrown in! Shortly after the Civil War ended a large insurance company offered Robert E. Lee \$50,000 just for the use of his name. Lee replied, "Don't you think if my name is worth that much I ought to be careful how it is used?" He declined the offer.

God's name is worth the highest praise. Shouldn't we take the ultimate care as to how we use it?

Third, we take God's name in vain when we

recite confessions without substance of conviction. Hymns of worship and prayers in public that are mouthed without conviction are examples of our guilt. One of the strongest indictments Jesus ever uttered concerned this problem: "Not every one who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do. When the Judgment Day comes, many will say to me 'Lord, Lord! In your name we spake God's message, by your name we drove out many demons and performed miracles.' Then I will say to them, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!' (Matt. 7:21-23).

When we take the Lord's name upon ourselves and call ourselves "Christians," it is incumbent upon us to live and speak in such a way that others might correctly understand Jesus Christ.

Dean Register is pastor, First, Gulfport.

Making people whole

By Jimmy G. McGee
Matthew 8:1-13

On the mountain, Jesus taught the people "as one having authority" (7:29). His words were the embodiment of life and the essence of first hand truth. He knew experientially what he was talking about.

When he came down from the mountain, he ministered to people in need with the same unmistakable authority. Boldly Jesus forgave the sins of the paralytic, and then to prove that he had authority to do so, he healed the man (9:2, 6).

Matthew summarizes the early ministry of Jesus by saying "Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people" (9:35). It is true; Jesus Christ brings wholeness to persons who place their faith in him.



McGee

UNIFORM

In chapters 8-9 there are 10 examples whereby Jesus made people whole. He cleansed, healed, cast out demons, raised the dead, and forgave sins. In every case, the examples represent people who are aware of their need. Said Jesus, "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (9:13). None could help themselves; each believed Jesus could help. Much of our ministry today has to do with urging people to see their need and to introduce them to the one able to heal.

Two examples are noteworthy. In the first, Jesus touches an untouchable. A leper came and worshipped Jesus saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean" (8:2). Jesus responded, "I am willing," and he cleansed the man of his leprosy.

Leprosy was a dread and incurable disease. A victim of leprosy was declared ritually unclean and an outcast of society. One coming into contact with a leper was considered contaminated and unclean. Because of this lepers

were to keep their distance.

It appears this leper was in violation of his quarantine as he came right up to Jesus. No doubt the crowd gave him space and made room for him as none dared touch him for fear of contamination.

Jesus did the unthinkable. He touched the leper! Godly compassion enables the Christian to overcome fear, superstition, and misinformation to minister to another in need. Though not the same disease as leprosy, society today responds to AIDS in similar fear. Victims of AIDS need understanding and acceptance.

Jesus honored the law by instructing the cleansed leper to go and show himself to the priest who in turn would declare him clean and allow his re-entry into society as a whole person. The demonstration and verification of change is important.

In the 2nd example, Jesus marvels at the faith of an outsider. "I have not found so great faith even in Israel," said Jesus to his followers (8:10). Jesus used the encounter as an opportunity to insist on faith as the only way to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. By this faith, many Gentiles will be included. "Many will

come from East and West, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven" (8:11). Without this faith, Jews thinking they belong naturally to God's family will be excluded. "The sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness" (8:12).

The Roman centurion asks Jesus for the healing of his servant back home. Having the command of 100 soldiers, he understands authority. His recognition of Jesus' person and authority is such that he asks Jesus just to "Speak the word and my servant will be healed" (8:8). His thinking goes like this. "I am a man of authority and those under me obey. You, Lord, have greater authority than I. I am not worthy that you should take the time to attend my request only. Just say the word and my servant will be well."

Jesus answered "as you have believed, let it be done for you." His servant was healed that same hour. With authority and boldness, Jesus practiced what he preached. Those helped by his ministry expressed faith in Jesus. Making people whole, spiritually, is God's special work; Christians are his assistants.

Jimmy McGee is pastor, First, Grenada.

Jacob's experiences at Haran — he marries two sisters

By Gayle Alexander
Genesis 29:1 to 30:43

"And he lifted up his feet" (29:1) means that Jacob was stepping lively in his journey to Haran. But now Jacob was fortified by his faith and God's assurance that God would be with him. "When Jacob saw Rachel . . ." (verse 10), he became alive with enthusiasm and proceeded to remove the stone covering and to water Rachel's sheep.

Water rights prevented those shepherds already present from rolling away the stone covering before all shepherds arrived. Jacob stood in jeopardy of incurring the wrath of the entire community by his action. Jacob's gentlemanly behavior gained Rachel's attention quickly. Also, Jacob was impressed with Rachel's beauty, and the apparent wealth of her family. Jacob kissed her and wept. Moved by the events of the past few days, as well as, arriving at the home of kind-folk, was joy to Jacob. Laban received Jacob into the home for two or three reasons. One is that Jacob was a kinsman. Also, Laban was on the lookout for possible husbands for both his



Alexander

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daughters. Furthermore, Laban would have remembered the lavish gifts that Abraham had sent as payment for Rebekah, his sister.

Sin comes full circle. What one sends into the life of another comes back into his own. Jacob was about to receive in kind for his own sin. The hard dealing and deceit of Laban constituted a school of hard knocks for Jacob. To come out of the quiet life he had enjoyed under his mother's favoritism and his father's inactivity, into this school was an important part of the making of Jacob. Jacob stayed with Laban for a month before the matter of wages surfaced. Was this self-seeking Jacob? He then initiated a contractual agreement for Rachel to be his wife by working for Laban for seven years.

Laban was willing to let Jacob initiate the terms of the contract. He could always raise the stakes if they were not sufficient. Jacob set the terms high. Unwilling to exploit another, his work for Rachel for the seven years would be but as a few days to him. It should be observed that contracts for marriage within the families

were not unusual because they wanted to keep family fortunes intact. It is probable that Jacob had shared with Laban that the birthright and the blessing were his. In time, Jacob would become a wealthy man.

There is quite a contrast in the scriptures between Leah and Rachel. Rachel is described as one who is very beautiful. Leah is more like a wallflower.

Jacob fulfills the seven years of service for Rachel. He asks Laban to fulfill the contract, "... give me my wife" (verse 21). In his request, Jacob does not use the name Rachel but only "my wife." In so doing he opened himself to Laban's deception. Laban seized the opportunity. Laban gave an elaborate party and the many guests would be witnesses to the fact of Jacob having spent the night with Leah, and, hence he would be under obligation to have her as his wife. Darkness, possible drinking, along with the veiling of the bride, caused Jacob not to discover the deception until the following morning.

Jacob confronted Laban, "Why have you beguiled me" (verse 25)? Laban justified his deception by appealing to the customs of the day that the older must be married first. Jacob experienced the kind of deception he had

perpetrated on his father years before. Now he would serve seven more years for Rachel, though he married her eight days later.

Unhappiness produces more unhappiness. Rivalry began in the family. Rachel was loved. Leah was unloved. Leah was having children. Rachel was not. Wives were evaluated by the number of their children. Barrenness was viewed as a curse from God. Leah interpreted each birth of her sons as the intervention of God with the hope that Jacob would love her. Rachel envied her sister. She could stand no more. So Rachel manipulated Jacob into having sons by her maid. Also, she resorted to superstitions of the day in trying to make herself fertile by the mandrakes. But God did not honor such superstition and she still remained barren.

However, after some years God did open her womb and Joseph was born. The name Joseph bears a double meaning of "take away" and also "add." God had finally taken away her reproach, her barrenness, and also, God would add to her life by giving her another son. The birth of Joseph into the family apparently was about at the same time that the obligation debt to Laban was fulfilled. Jacob was ready to return to his home.

Gayle Alexander is pastor, First, Tupejo.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

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A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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